

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 /031 W

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R 241115Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8793

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 12196

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN

SUBJECT: SALAL DAM TALKS

1. MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AZIZ AHMED, IN RESPONSE TO A MOTION BY OPPOSITION LEADER
KHWAJA SAFDAR, MADE A STATEMENT IN THE SENATE ON THE
SALAL DAM TALKS NOVEMBER 22. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS
AHMED OBSERVED THAT THE INDIANS HAD THE RIGHT TO BUILD
THE DAM UNDER THE INDUS WATERS TREATY OF 1960. HE SAID
THAT THE GOAL OF THE GOP HAS BEEN TO PERSUADE INDIA TO
DESIGN THE DAM SO THAT "IT DOES NOT HAVE THE POTENTIAL
EITHER TO DELUGE OR TO CREATE CONDITIONS OF DROUGHT IN
THE DOWNSTREAM AREAS OR OTHERWISE HARM OUR INTEREST."

AHMED SAID THAT THE LAST TWO ROUNDS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS
HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY USEFUL AND SOME OUTSTANDING POINTS
HAVE BEEN RESOLVED. A MEASURE OF SUCCESS HAD BEEN
ACHIEVED IN FULLY PROTECTING THE NATIONAL INTERESTS,
WHICH WAS THE CARDINAL OBJECTIVE.

2. COMMENT: AHMED'S STATEMENT IS NOTABLE FOR ITS
MODERATION AND NON-CONFRONTATIONAL NATURE AND REFLECTS
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THE AIR OF "CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM" WHICH PAKISTAN HAS

DISPLAYED CONCERNING THESE TALKS WITH INDIA. HE OBSERVED
THAT THE DELEGATIONS WOULD MEET AGAIN TO RESOLVE THE
REMAINING DIFFERENCES IN KEEPING WITH THE LETTER AND
SPIRIT OF THE INDUS WATERS TREATY. AN MFA OFFICIAL
LATER INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT NO DATE FOR THE TALKS
HAS YET BEEN SET.
BYROADE

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